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PVC-El Coyote-Op. 3-Excavation Report

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Operation PVC 3

The 10 structures making up Operation 3 (also called the *South Group* at El Coyote) occupy the east edge of the south upper terrace margin. This terrace surface is roughly equivalent to the top of the flat terrain that supports the bulk of the site of El Coyote to the north. Operation 3 is separated from the latter area by ca. 110m and a deep fissure cut by an unnamed seasonal affluent of the Rio Cacaupala. Five of the buildings here, including the largest edifice in the cluster (Str. 8), are arranged around a patio. The remaining edifices lie scattered to the west and south. Though relatively flat, the ground underlying the *South Group* slopes up east-to-west and north-to-south; steep descents to the lower terrace and *quebrada* border the cluster on the east and north, respectively. Structures 2, 4, 5, and 8 were dug within Op. 3 under the direction of C. Monson. Structures 2 and 4 were nearly completely uncovered whereas enough of Strs. 5 and 8 were revealed to a sufficient extent to permit making estimates of their basal dimensions. A total of 152m² was cleared in the course of this work.

Structure 2

Structure 2 closes off the north side of the Operation 3 patio. Structure 4 is 3.5m to the south and Str. 3 lies 6.5m to the southwest. The land over which Str. 2 was built ascends 0.96m over a distance of 9.4m east-to-west. Digging here with Subop. 3A uncovered ca. 55m² in the course of revealing all of the core platform's perimeter and summit along with much of two stone pavements, one off the platform's north and the other on its west side. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.2 and 0.4m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction, respectively. One major building episode was identified in the course of this work.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str. 2-1 st	U.5-7, 14-15	-	-	
3	Str. 2-1 st	U.1-4, 8-16	-	-	
4	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

During this interval at least 0.03m of a yellow soil (S.2) containing more small to medium-size rocks than earth was deposited (S.2's base was not encountered). Stratum 2 was recorded solely off Str. 2's east side where it rose 0.08m across 1m from east-to-west. Most likely S.2 was formed on bedrock that lies very close to the surface over the area encompassed by Op.3.

Time Span 2

During TS.2 the first known version of Str. 2-1st was raised. This iteration of the building is a platform that covers 2.32x3.6m, is oriented ca. 13 degrees, and is defined on all sides by stone facings that rise 0.3-0.5m directly to the summit (U.5, 7, 14, and 15). Discrepancies in the heights of Str. 2-1st's basal walls reflect accommodations made to the east-west ascent of the terrain over which the edifice was erected. A fill composed of a dark brown-to-black, fine-grained, hard-compacted soil in which were

embedded numerous small rocks (U.6) is retained by U.5, 7, 14, and 15. Structure 2-1st's earthen-floored summit measures 1.8x2.55m (4.6m²) and lacks any signs of built-in furniture. All constructions dating to this span are made primarily of unmodified river cobbles that were set in a mud mortar. Their flatter aspects were generally directed outwards.

Time Span 3

During this interval Str. 2-1st was expanded to the east and west. On the latter direction the raising of U.8 replaced the platform's earlier western basal facing (U.7). Unit 7 was now covered by a fill composed of a moderately dense concentration of stones set in a dark brown-to-black soil matrix (U.13). Unit 8 stood 0.4m tall, its addition expanding Str. 2-1st fully 0.72m to the west. The raising of U.3 pushed Str. 2-1st's eastern perimeter 1.48m further in this direction; U.14 and 15, the platform's northern and southern facings, were extended eastward to bridge the distance between U.3 and 5. Unit 3 stands 0.38m tall and led back on the west to U.5 which still projected 0.2m above the earth-and-stone surface backing U.3. A faced stone measuring 0.3m north-south by 0.6m east west (U.4) is set in the surface backing U.3 on the west. Unit 4 lies 0.91m west of U.3's east face and is set against the still-visible upper portion of U.5 at a point 2m south of U.5's northeast corner with U.14 (the northeast corner of Str. 2-1st during TS.2). The U.4 cut block was apparently fractured in place.

Unit 3 is flanked on the north and south by stone-faced constructions (U.1 and 2). The northern example (U.1) is 0.3m tall on its eastern, downslope side, measures 0.65m across, intersects the platform's northeast corner, and projects 1.2m east of U.3. Its southern analogue, U.2, is of similar height, covers 1.55-1.8m north-south (narrowing from east-to-west), joins the platform's southwest corner, and extends 1.1m east of U.3. The distance between U.1 and 2 is 1.3m across at its narrowest point. The architectural significance of U.1 and 2 is unclear. They may have been raised work areas appended to Str. 2-1st and partly sheltered by the superstructure's eaves.

A stone surface (U.9) extends 1m north of Str. 2-1st's northwest corner and continues for 2.75m to the east before turning south and running 1.2m south to intersect the platform's north basal facing (U.14). A more extensive rock surface (U.10) was laid down west of Str. 2-1st. Unit 10 intersects the platform 0.2m south of its northwest corner, projecting 0.65m west of the building at which point its perimeter turns north for 1.25. Subsequently, U.10 runs for 2.5m to the west at which point the floor turns south and was traced for 8.5m in that direction. This, the western face of U.10, describes an irregular course, stepping back (east) for 0.65m at a point 2.05m south of the pavement's northwest corner. After 2.1m, U.10's western edge projects westward to resume the line it defined to the north. At its southern terminus U.10 intersects a 0.15m-tall stone wall (U.12) that may have been the northwest face of a low construction (or 'saddle') that links with Str. 3 to the southwest. Unit 12 was traced for 1.6m to the southwest over which it was aligned roughly 230 degrees. A low stone wall (U.11) measuring 0.65m across east-west was found adjoining U.10's northwest corner. Unit 11 measures 2.05m north-south and does not seem to have been part of a larger edifice. It may have served as a bench or shelf used by people conducting activities in the open off Str. 2-1st's west side.

A remnant (U.16) of what might have been a structure raised directly on ground surface was located south of Str. 2-1st. Unit 16 is a stone wall that is ca. 0.45m tall and abuts the platform's south facing (U.15); it was traced for 0.9m southward (its south end was not uncovered). Not enough of U.16 was uncovered to determine what role it might have played in the building of which we presume it was

a part. Most likely this wall is a foundation that defined the east or west side of an earthen-floored room the north side of which was delimited by U.15.

As a result of additions made to Str. 2-1st during TS.3, the building was reconstituted as a stone-faced, earth-and-stone-filled platform that measured 3.6x4.56m, stood 0.3-0.5m tall, and was still aligned approximately 13 degrees. A 0.38m-high addition made to the core platform's east side created a 1.48m-wide earth-and-stone surface that ran the full length of the building's east face and terminated on the west in the core platform's eastern basal wall (U.5). The latter still rose 0.2m above the eastern addition and defined the east side of the featureless, earth-and-stone-floored summit. The latter now covered 2.2x2.55m (5.6m²). Access to the superstructure might have been marked on the east by a cut stone block (U.4) set against U.5's east face and atop the eastern addition.

Constructions of various sorts were erected off all sides of the platform. On the east, two stone-faced constructions extended 1.1 and 1.2m east of the eastern addition's northeast and southeast corners. These additions measure 0.65-1.8m across, are 0.3m tall on their downslope, east sides, and frame an open space between them that measured 1.3m across at its narrowest (eastern) point. On the north a stone floor covering 2.75m east west extends 1.1-1.2m (3.2m²) north of the platform. A more extensive rock surface fronts the building on the west. Based on the partial clearing of this unit, we estimate that it covered 3.5m east west by 8.5m north-south (ca. 30m²) and possibly joined with construction associated with Str. 3 on the southwest. If this interpretation is correct, Strs. 2 and 3 were linked at least near the end of their occupation histories. What looks to have been a building erected directly on ground surface was erected adjacent to Str. 2-1st's south side. The one stone foundation pertaining to this edifice that we uncovered stood about 0.45m tall and was traced for 0.9m south of its abutment with the platform's south facing before excavation ceased. What might have been a free-standing stone-faced shelf or bench adjoined the western floor's northwest corner. This low construction is 0.65m wide by 2.05m north-south and does not seem to have been incorporated into a larger edifice. It may have been part of a venue for the performance of activities that were conducted in the open air.

All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. As noted, the putative entry feature on Str. 2-1st's east side (U.4) was made of a large shaped block. The rocks used to fashion walls generally had their flatter faces directed outwards.

Time Span 4

Following abandonment, S.2 and most of Str. 2-1st was blanketed by as much as 0.15m of a dark brown-to-black, fine-textured, clay (S.1). Embedded in S.1 is a light concentration of stones (F.1) that likely tumbled from final-phase architecture.

Structure 4

Structure 4 is 3.5m south of Str. 2 and closes off the east side of the Op. 3 patio. Structure 3 is about 7.5m west and across this open space from Str. 4. The terrain above which Str. 4 was raised ascends about 0.55m across 5.8m east-to-west. Excavations conducted here within Subop. 3D cleared ca. 45m² in the course of exposing all of the platform's summit and perimeter. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.5m below modern ground surface outside construction; the edifice's fill was not investigated. One major building episode was identified in the course of these investigations.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str 4-1 st	U.1-9, 14	-	-	
3	Str. 4-1 st	U.10-13	F.2	-	
4	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

The first activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 4-1st was the deposition of a yellow soil that contains numerous small, fractured rocks (S.2). Stratum 2 was only revealed in the base of excavation. We did not dig into it further as investigations at Str. 2 indicated that a very similar soil was formed directly atop bedrock and, therefore, there seemed little to be gained by probing this stratum further.

Time Span 2

During this interval Str. 4-1st was a platform defined by stone facings that rose 0.2-0.55m directly to the summit (U.1-4). The discrepancies in the heights of these walls reflect the east-to-west rise of the terrain in this area. Structure 4-1st's southwest corner was inset, the indentation measuring 0.7x1.15m. The summit is divided among three rooms by stone foundations (U.5-8) that are 0.15-0.3m tall by 0.3-0.7m wide. Rooms 1 and 2 are set in a north-south line along the platform's west side. The northernmost of these enclosures (Room 1) covers 1.5x1.95m and is open on the west where it looks out over the patio. Room 2, on the south, encompasses 0.95x1.3m and is open to the west and south. Both compartments are surfaced with earth and do not contain surviving built-in furniture. Room 3 backs the aforementioned enclosures on the east. The northern 1.45x2.05m of the compartment is paved with stones (U.14), the remainder of room being covered with earth. A block of stone (U.9) abuts Room 3's western foundation at a point 1.35m south of the enclosure's northwest interior corner. Unit 9 measures 0.85m on a side, is 0.25m high, and may have served as a stone-faced and -surfaced shelf. Room 3 is open on the east and north. Passage among these compartments was likely achieved by walking around the summit's perimeter; the 0.4-0.65m that intervene between the superstructure's foundations and the platform's margins would have provided a means of traveling among these spaces.

By the end of TS.2, Str. 4-1st was a stone-faced platform that stood 0.2-0.55m tall, measured 4.65x4.77m, and was aligned roughly 15 degrees. The building's southwest corner was inset 0.7x1.15m while its eastern facing (U.4) does not describe a continuous straight line. Unit 4 runs at an azimuth of 15 degrees for its southernmost 1.15m before veering off at an angle of ca. 22 degrees for the remainder of its north-south length. The significance of this divergence is unclear; our initial interpretation in the field favored the view that these two segments of U.4 were raised at slightly different times. It is also possible that the platform's east basal wall was gradually succumbing to

erosion down the steep descent which lies immediately east of Str. 4-1st. The summit could have been easily reached by stepping up and over the low basal walls that define Str. 4-1st's margins. The superstructure raised atop the platform consists of three rooms; two arranged in a north-south line on the summit's west side (Rooms 1-2) and one backing those compartments on the east (Room 3). These enclosures were delimited by stone foundations that were 0.15-0.3m tall by 0.3-0.7m wide. Room 1, the northernmost of the western enclosures, covers 2.9m² and is open towards the patio on the west. Room 2 on the south encompasses 1.2m² and is unobstructed by footings on the south and west. Both of these spaces were floored with earth and lacked built-in furniture. Room 3 on the east measures 4.6m², the northern 3.2m² of which is paved with stones. A stone-faced and -surfaced shelf was built against the compartment's west wall slightly south of that foundation's center. This construction measures 0.85m on a side and is 0.25m high. Room 3 is open to the east and north. Moving among the superstructure's enclosures could have been achieved by traversing the 0.4-0.65m-wide passages that intervened between the building's foundations and the platform's edge. All constructions raised now were made primarily of river cobbles, set in a mud mortar, and with their flatter aspects directed outwards.

Time Span 3

During this period Str. 4-1st was not seriously modified save on the north. Here the an L-shaped addition (U.10) was appended to the westernmost 2.3m of the platform's north basal wall (U.1). Unit 10 projects 0.5m north from Str 4-1st's northwest corner. It then runs 1.5m to the east parallel to U.1 before projecting 0.6m to the north. This northern extension forms the base of the 'L' and is 0.8m wide. One result of adding U.10 was to inset the platform's northwest corner, that indentation measuring 0.6x1.5m. Bordering U.10 on the east is a stone surface (U.11) set against Str. 4-1st's north facing (U.1). Unit 11 covers 1.15m north-south by 2.55m east west and likely surfaced a room built on ground level that was bordered by U.10 and U.1 on the west and south but which was open on its remaining sides. Remnants of what may have been a stone block composed of unmodified rocks set on end (F.2) was very tentatively identified off Str. 4-1st's east side. Feature 2, if it is indeed a purposeful construction, was set against the platform's east basal wall (U.4) and was traced for 1.1m to the east. Part of the problem in being certain that F.2 was a product of human intention is that Str. 4-1st's eastern basal facing was in the process when excavated of falling down the steep descent located immediately east of the building. It was hard, therefore, to distinguish fallen architectural debris (F.1) from architecture in this area. The regular disposition of the F.2 stones revealed in section east of the building, each slanting out east and away from Str. 4-1st, coupled with the density of these rocks, far in excess of those needed to raise U.4 to the height of the summit, suggest that F.2 constitutes the disturbed remains of a stone block raised late in Str. 4-1st's occupation.

There are hints of other constructions that might have been raised in Str. 4-1st's vicinity about now. Unit 13, for example, is a low stone wall that was recorded 0.45m south of the platform. It was traced for 1m over which distance it followed an azimuth of about 104 degrees. Unit 12, in turn, is a similar construction that was uncovered running 0.8m south of the north side of Str. 4-1st's southwest inset corner. Neither U.12 nor 13 was cleared to a sufficient extent to be certain of how it was related to Str. 4-1st and what roles they might have played in the constructions of which they were a part. At

present, we infer that both walls were foundations that were components of surface-level buildings that were erected around Str. 4-1st near the end of the latter's occupation history.

As TS.3 drew to a close, Str. 4-1st's core platform retained its basic form, dimensions, and orientation from TS.2. An L-shaped addition to Str. 4-1st's north side expanded that building 0.5m northward over 1.5m running east from the building's northwest corner. The northern-projecting base of the 'L' defines the west side of a stone-paved room built on ground surface that was bounded on the south by the still-exposed portion of the platform's northern basal wall. Said enclosure covers 2.9m² and was open on the north and east. A block composed of unmodified stones set on end may have projected 1.1m east from near the center of Str. 4-1st's eastern basal facing. The poor state of this putative construction's preservation precluded determining its dimensions or even being sure that it was the result of purposeful human action. Remnants of what might have been foundations incorporated into relatively modest structures raised directly on ancient ground surface were noted along Str. 4-1st's south side. Not enough of these edifices was revealed to determine their number, forms, and dimensions. All constructions pertaining to TS.3 were fashioned of river cobbles that were set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of the rocks incorporated in walls (with the exception of F.2) were generally directed outwards.

Time Span 4

After Str. 4-1st's abandonment most of the building was covered by the deposition of as much as 0.45m of a hard-compacted, fine-textured, dark black clay (S.1). Embedded in S.1 is a light concentration of rocks (F.1) that almost certainly fell from final-phase architecture after the building was no longer being maintained.

Structure 5

Structure 5, along with Str. 4 which is 6.9m to the northeast, is perched atop the terrace margin on the east side of the patio. Structure 8 is situated 5.55m to the west. The land upon which Str. 5-1st was raised slopes up 1m over 8.6m east-to-west away from the steep eastern descent. The ca. 36m² cleared here within Suboperation 3B under C. Monson's direction was sufficient to permit estimation of the building's basal dimensions and to reveal the presence of a heretofore undetected building lying immediately east of Str. 5 (Str. 5-Sub1). Our knowledge of the summit is limited to what we could see in the 1m-wide trench cut east-west across the center of this space. Digging was carried down to maximum depths of 0.29m and 0.48m beneath modern ground surface within and outside architecture, respectively. One construction phase was inferred based on the results of this work.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.2, 3	-	
2	Str. 5-1 st Str. 5-Sub1	U.1-7, 11 U.9-10	-	-	

3	Str. 5-1 st	U.8	-	-
4	-	-	S.1	F.1

Time Span 1

The first activity pertaining to this span which was identified in Str. 5's vicinity was the deposition of at least 0.02m of a yellow soil containing numerous rocks (S.3). There are more rocks than earth in the limited portion of S.3 that we uncovered east of Str. 5-1st, between it and Str. 5-Sub1. As in other parts of Op. 3, such rock-rich soil almost certainly represents the top of the bedrock that underlies this portion of El Coyote. Covering S.1 by 0.44m, as revealed in excavations conducted east of Str. 5-1st, (the only part of our excavations that revealed relations between S.1 and 2) is a moderately hard-compacted, fine-textured, brown soil that contains numerous small rocks and some cultural material (S.2). The density of stones in S.2 is lower than that in underlying S.3. Architecture raised during TS.2 was set on and into S.2 strongly suggesting that the deposition of this soil predated the raising of Str. 5-1st and 5-Sub1. The recovery of artifacts from S.2 points to a human presence in the area while this earth was accumulating.

Time Span 2

Structure 5 is a 0.3–0.86m-high platform that covers 4.75x5.7m and is aligned between due north-south and 7 degrees. The height discrepancies noted above result from the building's having been raised over the aforementioned east-to-west ascent in the terrain. The limited portion of the platform's hearting we exposed suggests that these retaining walls contained a fill composed of a dense concentrations of rocks set in a brown soil (U.11). Unit 2, the western basal facing, rises directly to the summit while on the east the platform is faced by a 0.3m-high terrace (U.4) that is 0.96m wide east-west. Unit 6 rises 0.28m above U.4's earth-and-stone tread. Because our knowledge of Str. 5-1st's superstructure is limited, we are unsure how to interpret the features uncovered in the axial trench that transects this area. At present, U.6 is seen as a step-up to the earth-and-stone-surfaced summit upon which a 0.28m-tall stone-faced and –surfaced bench (U.5) was raised. Unit 5, as exposed in Subop. 3B, measures 2.11m across east-west and, combining excavation data with observations made on Str. 5-1st's surface, was roughly 2.3m long north-south. If this is correct, then Str. 5-1st's superstructure contained at least one room that measured 4.7m east-west and which was bordered on the west by a 0.28m-tall, 2.11m-wide, by 2.3m-long stone-faced and –surfaced bench.

The low heights (0.15-0.2m) of the northern and southern basal risers (U.1 and 3) suggest that, like U.4 on the east, they also constituted terrace facings leading back to a summit step-up. Time did not permit testing this interpretation. The substructure's northwest corner is outset 0.25m over 0.55m running east-west. Unit 2, the west basal facing, steps back 0.35m to the east at a point 2.9m south from that corner.

Fronting the platform on the west is a stone pavement (U.7) that extends, minimally, 1.8m in this direction and 2.1m north of the building's northwest corner. Said floor appears to intersect Str. 5-

1st's southwest corner and the platform's north facing (U.1) at a point 0.55m east of the northwest corner. Overall, we estimate that the western floor covered at least 20m².

Structure 5-Sub1 is 0.6m east of Str. 5-1st at their closest point. The former is delimited by walls that 0.6-0.75m thick by 0.25m high on the south (U.10) and west (U.9). Excavations exposed 1.5m and 3.25m of these respective sides, tracing the latter along an azimuth of 7 degrees. We remain stymied in our efforts to determine whether Str. 5-Sub1 is a low platform or an edifice built directly on ancient ground surface.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 5-1st was a stone-faced, rock-and-earth-filled platform that covered 4.75x5.7m, stood 0.3-0.86m high (measured to the top of the summit bench), and was aligned between due north-south and 7 degrees. The substructure's northwest corner is outset 0.25m to the north for a distance of 0.55m east-west. Its western basal facing does not trace a straight line. Instead, it steps back 0.35m to the east at a point 2.9m south of the northwest corner. Whereas the building's western facing rises directly to the summit it may be that Str. 5-1st was fronted by low (0.2-0.3m-high) stone-faced terraces on the remaining sides. The most completely cleared of these units, U.4 on the east, was 0.96m-wide east-west and terminated on the west in a 0.28m-high stone-faced step-up to the summit. The latter supported at least one stone-and-earth-floored room that was bordered on the west by what we infer to have been a stone-faced and -surfaced bench that was 0.28m tall, 2.11m wide east-west, and 2.3m long. Including that bench, the summit enclosure covered an estimated 4.7m east-west. The building was fronted by an extensive (ca. 20m² or more) stone pavement on its west, patio-facing side. A platform or surface-level building (Str 5-Sub1) is located as close as 0.6m east of Str. 5-1st and was defined on the west and south by stone walls that were 0.6-0.7m thick by 0.25m high. Structure 5-Sub1 was oriented roughly 7 degrees and encompassed at least 1.5x3.25m (its full dimensions were not revealed).

All architecture dating to TS.2 consists of stones whose natural states are unsullied by the hands of human artisans. The rocks employed in fashioning these walls were carefully placed so that their naturally flatter faces looked outwards to the world beyond.

Time Span 3

The only activity assigned to this interval is the erection of a 0.2m-tall, 0.22m-wide wall (U.8) that projects at least 1.5m south of Str. 5-1st's south basal facing (U.3). Unit 8 intersects U.3 at a point 0.45m east of the platform's southwest corner. Most likely, this late wall is a foundation associated with a building that was erected against Str. 5-1st's south side. Not enough of the area surrounding U.8 was cleared to infer the form and dimensions of this construction. The stones used to make this wall were unmodified cobbles that were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

Following the abandonment of Str. 5-1st and Str. 5-Sub1, as much as 0.24m of a moderately hard-textured, fine-grained, dark brown soil (S.1) collected atop S.2 and constructions dating to TS.2 and 3. Embedded in S.2 is a moderately dense concentration of what appears to be debris (F.1) that fell from final-phase architecture. Feature 1 is especially densely packed on the east, down-sloping side of Str. 5-1st where its component rocks were found overlying Str. 5-Sub1.

Structure 8

The largest building in the *South Group*, Str. 8 closes off the patio's southwest corner. Structure 5 lies 5.55m to the east whereas Str. 2 is 17.5m distant on the northeast. The terrain over which Str. 8 was erected ascends gradually from east to west. The excavations C. Monson supervised here within Subop. 3C cleared ca. 16m², enough to infer the platform's final basal dimensions; no investigations were pursued on the summit. Digging was carried down to a maximum depth of 0.51m outside architecture, resulting in the identification of a single building phase (no probes were sunk into construction fill).

Time Spans

Time	Construction				
Span	Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	Str. 8-1st	U.1-7	-	F.2	
2	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

During this time span, Str. 8-1st was faced by basal walls that stand 0.15- 0.7m high (U.1-4). Unit 1, the western basal facing, is the tallest of these entities, rising 0.7m and giving way to a stone-and-earth surface that is at least 2.75m wide east-west. Excavations were not pursued far enough on the east to determine if there was another step-up to the summit. The remaining facings are sufficiently low (0.15-0.3m tall) that they likely fronted stone-faced terraces that defined the platform's perimeter but which were succeeded by other risers leading up to the superstructure. A 0.3m-high stone-faced outset (U.6) intersects Str. 8-1st's south wall (U.3) at a point 1.1m west of the platform's southeast corner and projects 1.65m south from U.3. Unit 6 may mark the east side of a staircase the basal riser of which (U.7) stands 0.15m high and was traced for 0.6m west of its corner with U.6.

Lying 0.76m west of Str. 8-1st's west basal facing (U.1) is a stone block (U.5) that stands 0.25m high and measures 1.02m east-west by 0.6m north-south. Unit 5 may have been a free-standing shelf. The remnants of what may have been a foundation (F.2) were found about 0.25m south of U.5. Feature 2 abuts U.1 at a point 2.25m south of the platform's northwest corner, is ca. 0.4m wide by 0.4m tall by at least 0.8m long east-west. Difficulties experienced in distinguishing F.2 from architectural debris made specifying its dimensions problematic. If F.2 is a purposeful construction it was likely a footing for a structure raised directly on ancient ground surface the east side of which was bounded by Str. 8-1st's U.1. Feature 2's proximity to U.5 might imply that the two constructions are related; possibly the putative stone shelf was sheltered within a room the south side of which was delimited by F.2.

By the end of TS.1, Str. 8-1st was a stone-faced platform that stood at least 0.7m tall, encompasses 6.5x7.4m, and was oriented approximately 106 degrees. Terraces standing 0.15-0.3m high fronted the building on all sides save the west where a 0.7m-tall basal wall fronted a stone-and-earth surface that was at least 2.75m wide east-west. We did not pursue excavations far enough to determine the building's full height and the form of its superstructure. What might have been a staircase projects 1.65m south from Str. 8-1st's south facing at a point 1.1m west of that edifice's southeast corner. Said unit may define the east side of a staircase the basal riser of which stood 0.15m high. Lying 0.76m west

of Str. 8-1st is a 0.25m-tall block of stone that might have served as a shelf. It measures 1.02m east-west by 0.6m north-south. This construction is 1.25m north of the platform's center. What might have been the foundation that was part of a surface-level room built against the platform's west basal facing was tentatively identified 0.25m south of the stone block. This putative footing is 0.4m wide, 0.4m tall, and projected at least 0.8m west from its abutment with Str. 8-1st's western facing. The room defined by this wall might have contained the aforementioned stone block.

Construction associated with Str. 8-1st is fashioned of unmodified stones packed round, and held in place, by a brown mud mortar. The flatter aspects of the rocks used in walls now are usually oriented outwards.

Time Span 2

Following its abandonment, approximately 0.3m of a dark brown soil containing small pebbles (S.2) was laid down. Stratum 2, in turn, was blanketed by as much as 0.21m of a very similar soil that was distinguished from its predecessor by its darker brown hue and the lowered prevalence of diminutive stones (S.1). Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a moderated dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely tumbled from TS.1 architecture.